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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

15 - 19 February, 1982

Meeting held at

John Knox Centre

Geneva, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

John Knox Centre
Geneva, Switzerland

15-19 February, 1982

OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The opening service of worship, held in the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre, was led by His Holiness Karekin II. Morning worship on subsequent days was led by Dr. Wedel, Bishop Harms, Dr. McCloud and Metropolitan Antonie.

The meeting convened at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 15 February.

On Wednesday, 17 February, a dinner was held in honour of Mr. Wesley Kenworthy, Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration, who would shortly be leaving the Council, and on the following evening there was an apéritif for Mr. John P. Taylor, Secretary for Film and Visual Arts, who was leaving the full-time service of the World Council after 28 years, but would continue to serve in an advisory capacity.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies from Prof. Miguez-Bonino, Dr. Kang and Prof. Kyaw Than. He extended congratulations to Metropolitan Antonie on his election as Metropolitan of Transsylvania.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Dresden, German Democratic Republic, 14-16 August 1981, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda

The General Secretary introduced the draft agenda, which was adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary paid tribute to ecumenical leaders and staff who had died since the last meeting: Bishop Samuel of Egypt, a Central Committee member who had been killed during the assassination of President Sadat; Mr. Charles Parlin, a WCC President from 1961 to 1968; Dr. Hans-Jochen Margull, former Secretary for Studies in Mission and Evangelism, and the Rev. Clément Barbey, former Assistant to the General Secretary. He also referred to the celebration of the 90th birthday of Dr. Martin Niemöller, President from 1961 to 1968, and to the release from prison of Bishop Paulos, Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Dr. Potter reported on the period of intense staff activity since the Central Committee meeting in Dresden, as certain programmes were being brought to a conclusion and work concentrated on Assembly preparations. Reports of the programme units and departments which were before the Committee would not be presented orally, but Dr. Potter highlighted a number of events and activities.

DFI had organized a consultation of Jewish and Christian scholars on Biblical Views of Life, which had produced an excellent statement. A consultation on Churches among Ideologies had been held in Geneva, and the postponed Christian-Muslim dialogue would take place in March in Sri Lanka. A report on the Faith and Order Commission meeting in Lima would be before the Executive Committee.

CICARWS had continued its programmes, particularly in Southern Africa, Poland, Latin America and the Middle East, and tried to respond to emergencies and to the ever-increasing numbers of refugees throughout the world. ECLOF had achieved a record of more than $22 million of loans. A consultation arranged by CICARWS, CWME and CCPD had worked towards a new system of resource sharing, which would have important consequences for structures and relationships in the WCC. CMC had now completed its regional meetings on Health, Healing and Wholeness and a final report would be presented at Central Committee. A consultation on Church-related Pharmaceutical Services had been held in December. CCIA had been involved in a number of trouble-spots and in the Hearing on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament. A workshop on Militarism and Human Rights had been held in November, and the sub-unit was also involved in preparations for the UN Special Session on Disarmament. The PCR report, "Justice for Aboriginal Australians", had led to action by many churches, particularly in Australia itself. There would be a consultation in May on the churches' involvement in Southern Africa. The decision of the Executive Committee in Dresden to terminate relations with three banks because of their major involvement in South Africa had been announced at a press conference on 15 September, after member churches had had an opportunity to receive information on the subject. There had been

some strong reactions in Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany, but soon afterwards the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland had agreed, after a lively debate, to increase its annual contribution to the WCC by 10%.

Among Unit III items, the General Secretary drew special attention to the publication of the ecumenical handbook, "Experiments with Bible Study", produced by Hans-Ruedi Weber. A consultation on "Renewal and Congregational Life" had been held in Korea in October, and in November the RCL sub-unit had co-sponsored, with the Church of Sweden, a consultation on the Church and Tourism, which gave special attention to the problem of "sex tourism". The Youth sub-unit had concentrated on Assembly preparations and was also involved in working towards the International Youth Year in 1985. One of the main events for the sub-unit on Women had been the international workshop on the theme "Choose life - work for peace", held in Nassau in November.

The Department of Communication, in consultation with people around the world, was developing a new statement on the search for credible communication. A Publications Board had been set up.

At the Ecumenical Institute the Graduate School was about to close. Fifty-six students from more than 30 countries had attended the session on the theme, "Created in the image and likeness of God". The two sisters from Grandchamp who had attended the School had greatly helped to strengthen the spiritual life of the community.

The New York Office had given major attention to Assembly matters and a US Assembly Preparations Committee had been set up. A number of Geneva staff had taken part in the "Ecumenical Event" organized by the NCCC in Cleveland in November. Following that Event the General Secretary had had a number of fruitful discussions, particularly with leaders of black churches.

The General Secretary referred to a number of visits to Geneva, including that of His Holiness Patriarch Justin of Romania in October, which had been preceded by a visit from the Romanian Minister for Religious Affairs in September. The Archbishop of Canterbury would visit the Council and other organizations in Geneva in the week following the Executive Committee meeting. There had been team visits by staff and others to Angola, Turkey, Poland and the Kimbanguist Church in Zaïre. The General Secretary had met Bishop K.H. Ting and a group of Chinese church leaders during a visit to Canada in October. Chinese Protestants spoke of themselves as being "post-denominational". Churches and a theological college were now being reopened in China and Christians were able to print the Bible and to publish a magazine. They have had contacts with other Asian churches and planned to visit some Western European countries. They had indicated that they would consider an invitation to attend the Assembly as guests.

With regard to Assembly preparations, staff had been urgently engaged in arranging the visitation process and 64 team visits were now planned. A theological symposium on the theme had been held in December, on the basis of which Canon John Poulton had prepared a publication to stimulate further discussion. There would be a similar publication of reflections on the theme coming from the Orthodox Working Group's meeting in Damascus, 5-9 February.

The report on the Sheffield Consultation on the Community of Women and Men in the Church was being produced. The Faith and Order Commission in Lima had discussed the issues referred to it and the Advisory Group on CWMC had met in New York in November. Many points arising from the Sheffield meeting were included in the issues for the Assembly.

The General Secretary then turned to his reflection on the world situation within which the WCC works. He saw a number of changes in emphasis compared with the situation at the time of the Executive Committee meeting in Liebfrauenberg, February 1980. He had then spoken of the loss of control by the super-powers in their spheres of influence; now there was a distinct shift back to the super-powers regaining their grip, and the centre of gravity had moved again to the North Atlantic area. However, while there was a general solidarity within the NATO and Warsaw Pact spheres of influence, both had their "soft under-belly" - for the USA, Central America; for the USSR, Afghanistan and Poland. Because of the reassertion of the super-powers, various tyrannical or military groups were allowed to flourish in ways which made for even greater instability, for instance in the Middle East, Indochina, Ethiopia, Sudan, Southern Africa and Latin America. The deterioration of relations continued and there was little serious effort to help less developed countries. Growing unemployment in the rich countries might bring about a change in the attitude between North and South, and fears had been expressed that in Europe it might lead to a new wave of anti-semitism.

The growth of religious and political fundamentalism was evident, particularly in the USA. In the face of this situation some churches in the West sought inner security through a stronger assertion of confessionalism. In the East, there was an "uneasy symphony" with the state - the state recognized the existence of the churches and its need to work with them, but Communist parties feared the religious resurgence taking place in many countries. In the Third World, churches were seeking to find their identity in the face of their relation both to the state and society and to confessional bodies and donor agencies.

In this total situation there was a feeling, especially in the richer churches of the North, that the WCC was divisive on some important issues; the poorer churches, however, often regarded the Council as the expression of international solidarity.

The WCC was most heavily attacked from the USA and FRG, and the General Secretary stressed the need for its friends to speak out on its behalf.

Dr. Potter then raised the question of how the churches receive into their own life what they ask the WCC to do on their behalf. Agreed statements on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry had now been achieved and would be shared with the churches, but would they be taken seriously by them and acted upon? It was also not easy to gain agreement on issues of justice and the renewal of human community. In a sense we had only now begun the struggle for the unity of the Church and the unity of humankind. How could the WCC have a more dynamic relation with its member churches so that both could gain greater credibility?

* * *

In the discussion of the General Secretary's report Dr. McCloud spoke of his visit to China in November as part of an official NCCC/USA team. He stressed that the initiative in relationships must come from the Christians in China, who wanted to determine the shape of their future. The question of old denominational links was particularly sensitive.

Metropolitan Gregorios asked how disapproval of Israeli policies could be expressed while being distinguished from anti-semitism. He also asked that the Central Committee discuss the reception of great ecumenical insights into the actual life of the Church. Bishop Harms felt it would be some years before the consensus documents agreed at Lima were accepted by the churches. The Council would have to reawaken confidence that the unity of the Church really was the goal and task of the WCC. His Holiness Karekin II said that the churches, through the ecumenical movement, had become both more open but also more self-conscious. Formal acceptance of the WCC's work was sometimes feared. The churches lacked mutual information and the visitation process should help to provide this. Dr. Simatupang pointed out that the world was now much more complicated than when the WCC began. The unique significance of the WCC was that it could hold together churches in many different situations under a sense of common mission, but there was still a lack of communication, particularly between Western churches and those of the Third World. Bishop Hempel stressed that the churches needed to develop a style of communication which was both honest and modest.

In the further discussion, reference was made to the complexity of relations between church and state in Marxist countries. The most important aspect was the growth of moral power of the churches in these countries. State authorities were having to review their attitude to the Church and to recognize that its existence would continue as a positive force for the well-being of the whole people.

In the final session, the General Secretary again referred to some of the problems raised in his report and asked whether, in the light of the week's discussions, the Executive Committee could give any further guidance to staff as they prepared for the Assembly, and particularly the visitation process. How could the teams help the churches to understand the wholeness of the work of the WCC and how could the churches be enabled to take convergence documents into their total life so that they could move towards unity?

Dr. McCloud hoped that the visitations would be undertaken with a strong sense of being open to the Holy Spirit so that something new might happen as a result of the experience. Some time during the visits should therefore be left unplanned. He also hoped that in some situations there would be contacts with Christians outside the ecumenical movement. The Moderator said the visits must take seriously the conditions which had shaped each church; people would only hear what was said if it had meaning in their own experience. Mr. Gatu stressed that the Assembly was a meeting of the churches and it was important for the churches to prepare for it in their own way and to help those attending to speak on their behalf.

3. REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS COMMITTEE (APC)

Ms. Webb presented the report, as follows:

1. Vancouver meeting

Since the Central Committee meeting in Dresden, the Committee has had a significant and fruitful meeting in Vancouver. It was of great benefit to us to see the actual facilities of the University of British Columbia first hand and to be able to visualize the Assembly taking place. We were pleased and impressed with the facilities available which we feel will be conducive to a smoothly functioning Assembly.

Equally important to us was the opportunity to meet and to work with the members of the Vancouver Planning Committee. We were very encouraged by the leadership of the committee and the strong support being given locally by many church people. The opportunity to discuss with them a number of matters essential to their ongoing work and to have them share in our discussions provided a good basis for future collaboration.

We gratefully accepted the proposal of the Vancouver Planning Committee to organize a host programme which would provide optional hospitality for participants before or after the Assembly and occasionally during the Assembly, if desired. This would be arranged only for those participants who wish to take advantage of the invitation and would not compete with the Assembly Programme. It was seen by the local committee as an important way to strengthen local involvement in the Assembly.

We also approved plans for a public celebration on the afternoon of the opening day of the Assembly following our own opening worship on Sunday morning. This is seen as the occasion when the Canadian churches in general and the Vancouver churches in particular will welcome the Assembly. Responsibility for planning the programme will be in the hands of the Vancouver Planning Committee in co-operation with the Assembly Worship Committee.

2. Visitors' Programme and Related Activities

One of the important questions for the Vancouver Planning Committee is the Visitors' Programme which will probably draw a large number of persons from the local community and from North America as well as from the member churches elsewhere. Requests are being received by other organizations who wish to have meetings in connection with the Assembly. It will be important to distinguish between events to be included in the Visitors' Programme, and therefore open only to persons registered as visitors, and events open to the general public.

Guidelines for developing the Visitors' Programme and related conferences as well as criteria for accredited visitors were approved by the committee. These will be the basis for future work with close co-ordination between Geneva, Vancouver, Toronto and New York. The Visitors' Programme will be designed in such a way to offer participants the opportunity to be involved as fully as possible in the Assembly programme and enable them to interact with other participants in the Assembly. Although the gymnasium, where plenary sessions will be held, will not accommodate all expected visitors at one time, it will be possible to arrange for closed-circuit TV in other nearby locations.

3. Visitation Programme

At our meeting in Vancouver we received an up-dated report on plans for the programme of visitation and consultation. Since then, the Moderator and General Secretary have sent a pastoral letter to the member churches regarding the visitation programme in order to emphasize the participation of all churches in the preparation of the Assembly.

The plan includes these elements:

- Over 60 team visits are being planned to 64 countries in all regions. "Youth to Youth visits" will take place in about 10 countries. While the size of the teams varies from place to place, approximately 300 - 500 people will be involved in the visits.

- 9 regional or sub-regional preparatory meetings for delegates to Vancouver are being planned.

- Many churches have put the WCC Assembly on the agenda of their synods, assemblies, and other important events and visits will be arranged to some of these. This also will be an occasion to involve the churches in the Assembly preparatory process and get their insights and comments.

Staff task forces are working on the composition of the teams and the programmes for visits and regional meetings on the basis of guidelines which have been developed. Guidelines for hosting churches will be provided shortly, as well as procedures for briefing and de-briefing teams. Special attention is being given to staff briefing, as many relatively new staff will be involved in the programmes.

Preparatory material for the teams is being prepared and will include WCC Assembly publications and information on the countries and member churches being visited. One team visit in each region will be accompanied by a communications staff member to give attention to communication needs and to assist with reporting and feedback.

4. Worship

Following the recommendation of Central Committee, an Assembly Worship Committee has been appointed and will have its first meeting 1-3 April 1982 at Bossey following a workshop on worship. The Committee will be chaired by Rev. Dieter Trautwein (Evangelical Church in Germany, FRG) with the following members:

Bishop Sotirios	Greek Orthodox, Canada
Rev. Pablo Sosa	Methodist, Argentina
Dr. Alfred Bayiga	Reformed, Cameroon
Mrs. Aruna Gnanadason	Church of South India, India
Miss Marianne Micks	Episcopal, U.S.A.

5. Assembly Programme

At our meeting in Vancouver we made a number of recommendations regarding the Assembly programme. This will be a major subject of discussion at our meeting in Geneva in May, and a definite plan will be presented to Central Committee in July.

6. Communication

The Bible Study resources, "Images of Life", have been printed in English and are in the process of being translated and printed in other languages. A set of posters to accompany the Bible Studies is also available.

Following the poster competition, in which there were 150 entries, three posters have been selected as official posters for the Assembly and are available for distribution.

The popular report on the work of the WCC, "Acting in Faith", by Leon Howell will be published shortly. The report of the theological symposium on the theme and a companion publication of Orthodox contributions to the theme are expected in April.

Two slide sets about the WCC will also be available within a few weeks.

7. Sub-themes

Following discussion at Dresden and subsequent staff reflection, we considered again the wording of the major concerns or sub-themes. We agreed that in future the term "sub-theme" would be used. The formulation as agreed by the Committee is recommended to the Executive Committee for approval.

8. Issues

The Committee gave careful attention to the wording of the issues for the Assembly in the light of the discussion at Central Committee and proposals made by the General Secretary. We agreed on the following basic considerations:

a. The four major areas of WCC work based on the report of the Review Committee, 1976, should be used as criteria for defining the issues.

b. The issues should not be directly identified with sub-unit programmes and studies but should cross sub-unit lines.

c. The issues identified would provide the framework for the Assembly programme and agenda.

d. The two issues that Central Committee recommended be left open for later decision should be provided for in the Assembly programme but should be determined by other criteria no later than February, 1983.

The Committee agreed on eight issues, the formulation of which is presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Preliminary staff papers on the issues will also be presented to the Executive Committee at this time.

Dr. Lazareth outlined the work of the Symposium held in Grandchamp in December at which 20 theologians and staff had explored the Assembly theme, "Jesus Christ - the Life of the World". A text prepared by Canon John Poulton arising from the work of the Symposium would contribute to further discussion in congregations.

After discussion of the four sub-themes and eight issues as formulated by the APC, and a number of suggestions for amendment, the report of the APC and the preliminary papers prepared by the staff task forces on the issues were referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

Sub-themes

At a later session Ms. Webb, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, recommended that the revised brief explanation of the four sub-themes be approved for publication and use in official communications with member churches and delegates. After further discussion and amendment, this was agreed (Appendix III).

Issues

Ms. Webb reported that the Programme Sub-Committee had considered the outline for eight issue-groups at the Assembly proposed by the Assembly Preparations Committee. It recommended that the outline be approved in its revised form for publication and use in official correspondence with member churches and delegates. After further discussion and amendment, this was agreed (Appendix IV).

The Programme Sub-Committee had also discussed the working papers prepared by staff groups as a basis for reflection on the issues in the churches during the preparatory process for the Assembly. The main comments made during this discussion were summarized in an aide-mémoire. The Programme Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that the documents be revised in the light of this discussion and then be published as soon as possible.

Publications on the Theme

His Holiness Karekin II reported that the Programme Sub-Committee had welcomed the opportunity to comment on the manuscript prepared by Canon John Poulton, arising out of the Theological Symposium on the Assembly theme organized by the WCC at Grandchamp in December 1981. It looked forward to the publication of the manuscript in the "Risk" series, and was convinced that it would stimulate and enrich the discussion on the Assembly theme.

The Programme Sub-Committee, noting that the contribution coming from the meeting of an Orthodox Working Group at Damascus, February 1982, would be published soon, had considered additional ways of encouraging and sharing theological reflection on the Assembly theme.

It recommended that specific proposals regarding the publication of a volume with theological essays as well as the focus and the preparation of plenary presentations on the main theme at Vancouver be considered by the Assembly Preparations Committee at its meeting in May 1982. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

4. PROGRAMME REPORTS

A. Faith and Order Commission, Lima, 2-16 January 1982

Dr. Lazareth introduced the discussion on the report of the Lima Commission meeting, highlighting the Preface to the convergence statement on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry". The text helped to satisfy one of the three requirements for unity which Faith and Order could help to achieve: a) full mutual recognition of the ministry and the sacraments, b) common understanding of the apostolic faith, and c) agreement on common ways of teaching and decision-making. He stressed that a crucial new stage in the search for church unity had been reached, now that the churches were being asked to respond to the document with an official action that was an important step in the process of reception. Ways must now be found to assist the churches to take tangible steps in moving toward the goal of visible church unity.

After some discussion of the process to be followed for the presentation of the document and its circulation to the churches, the matter was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, recommended that the Faith and Order document on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" be dealt with in the following way:

i) that the printed text be circulated to the churches as quickly as possible, accompanied by a letter from the General Secretary which described the status and reception process of the document, and also announced plans for its plenary presentation and discussion at the July meeting of the Central Committee;

ii) that the Faith and Order plenary presentation on "Unity" at the July Central Committee include an analysis of the ecumenical implications of the document which emphasizes the new stage reached in the search for unity and which offers practical proposals for engaging in the reception process;

and

iii) that the July Central Committee be asked to commend the document to the churches, and to impress on them the need for the widest possible involvement in the discussion leading to their official replies by December 31, 1984.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Metropolitan Antonie said it would be helpful to his church if the General Secretary's letter could explain why only three of the seven sacraments had been dealt with in the document.

B. Consultation on Political Ethics, Cyprus, 18-25 October 1981

Dr. Srisang presented a progress report on the follow-up of the programme "Towards a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society" (JPSS). Since the Central Committee in Jamaica, 1979, this programme had focussed on the issue of political ethics. A series of regional meetings had been held in preparation for the consultation in Cyprus, which had discussed four themes: Power and Justice; Participation, Identity and Sharing; Resources, Technology and Sustainability; and Towards an Ecumenical Political Ethics. Dr. Srisang referred to the initial assumptions which had guided the discussion, and the shift from the "institution-centred" perspective to a "people-centred" perspective of political ethics. The consultation had stressed the need for deeper biblical reflection. The issue of power had become a dominant category in the discussion. Four major components of political ethics had emerged as essential: discerning the signs of the time; reconstruction of the common Christian confession; delineation of various approaches to political ethics, and the political witness of the churches in ecumenical solidarity. The consultation had agreed that the study process should continue and had made a number of specific recommendations for future work. Its report should be finalized by the end of March, and a book containing selected papers and the report would be published later. A report on the JPSS follow-up, with the focus on political ethics, would be submitted to Central Committee in July, and it was anticipated that the issue would receive further attention in the period up to and beyond the Assembly.

In reply to a number of questions and comments, Dr. Raiser pointed out that the consultation had attempted to state not a consensus but the essential differences of priorities, starting points and expectations. Participants had become aware that past studies had addressed social and economic ethics rather than political ethics and it was necessary to make a new start. This was one of the crucial points on the ecumenical agenda, which might become more central after the Assembly, and the study/information/reflection process was only just beginning. Although it had been decided to focus on this one aspect, work had continued on the broader issues involved in JPSS and the report to Central Committee would make clear the relationship between economic and political ethics.

C. Public Hearing on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament, Amsterdam, 23-27 November 1981

Dr. Abrecht and Mr. Koshy presented the preliminary report on the Hearing, jointly sponsored by Church and Society and CCIA. It was hoped to publish a report and conclusions by 1 May. This will be submitted to the General Secretary for consideration and for possible submission to the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament, as well as in preparation for the Sixth Assembly.

The hearing had brought together a group of 38 witnesses, including experts on nuclear technology and disarmament from East, West and Third World countries. Many representatives of peace movements attended as observers. Despite the gloomy picture presented in much of the evidence, there were signs of hope, including the almost universal condemnation of nuclear war, the growing bonds of solidarity between peoples of different faiths and cultures, and the increasing popular resistance to nuclear weapons in both East and West.

In discussion, Metropolitan Gregorios pointed out that while not many new insights emerged, the Hearing did open discussion with some of the defenders of deterrence and also emphasized the need for churches to think about their relation to peace movements. Archbishop Kirill stressed the importance of the dialogue between the Hearing Group and the expert witnesses, both during the meeting and informally, and among the witnesses themselves. The USSR experts had welcomed the contact with their Western partners, and the Hearing had had important implications for the Russian Orthodox Church. For the first time his church had been able to bring leading scientists from the USSR into an ecumenical meeting, and the dialogue between them and the Russian church leaders was continuing.

Dr. Simatupang said that the nuclear threat needed to be more closely related to the wider problem of global justice. Dr. Preus spoke of the need for further study on the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Ms. Webb asked how the churches could show solidarity with the popular peace movements.

The General Secretary asked how best to use the document vis-à-vis the churches and the public and for the UN Special Session. Should he address the report to the churches with a strong covering letter, indicating some of the major concerns? Several members of the Executive Committee urged that the document be circulated to the churches as soon as possible as a contribution to the current debate on arms control and disarmament, and also be made available to the participants at the UN Special Session.

D. Consultation on Transnational Corporations, FRG, 23-28 November 1981

Mr. Arruda presented a preliminary report on the international consultation on "Transnational Corporations and the Mission of the Churches", which was the culmination of a series of regional consultations. Five groups had discussed the themes proposed by the Executive Committee: Transnationality of business and the ecumenical movement; Power, accountability and social responsibility; Unemployment, technology and organized labour; TNCs as mechanisms of oppression: building countervailing powers; Ethics, churches, their prophetic role and TNCs.

The Consultation had recommended the continuation and expansion of the Programme, under the administration of CCPD, priority

being given to local, national and regional levels of activity; the Programme should play a catalyzing and coordinating role in this context. The Consultation had emphasized the need for the Programme to work closely with national and regional churches, Christian action groups, organized labour and other groups regarding TNC violations of human rights, starting with the right to work. It had also recommended that the Programme focus not only on the role of transnational firms and banks in the process of transnationalization of national economies and institutions, but also on the logic of that process, its values, its ideology and its "theology".

The Executive Committee noted that a full report would be submitted to the Central Committee in July.

E. DFI Working Group

Guidelines for Jewish/Christian dialogue, which had been adopted by the DFI Working Group meeting in Bali, Indonesia, were discussed by the Programme Sub-Committee.

His Holiness Karekin II presented recommendations from the Programme Sub-Committee regarding the procedure to be followed. A number of questions were raised and regret was expressed that there had not been time for the Executive Committee to discuss the document itself. Some members felt that the guidelines, particularly regarding the question of the Land, were liable to misinterpretation and might become controversial, thus prejudicing the dialogue. They felt that further consultation was needed and that the text should be sent to the heads of concerned member churches, for example in the Middle East.

Dr. Taylor reminded the Committee that the process of drafting had started in 1977 at the Consultation on the Churches and the Jewish People, held in Jerusalem. The document had been radically revised at DFI Working Group and CCJP meetings in 1978, 1980 and 1981, and there had also been correspondence with member churches, including those in the Middle East. The meeting in Bali had felt the guidelines were now ripe to be shared with member churches.

After further discussion and amendment of the Programme Sub-Committee's recommendations, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. that comments and reactions to the document be obtained from persons directly concerned;

ii. that the matter be brought back to the Executive Committee meeting in July 1982 together with a memorandum from the Officers and staff of DFI summarizing and evaluating the reactions received.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr. Koshy said that staff were bringing no proposals for statements on public issues but would present Notes on a number of situations for information and advice on further action.

A. Poland

An ecumenical team, sponsored jointly by the Conference of European Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the WCC had visited Poland from 8 to 12 February, on the invitation of the Polish Ecumenical Council (PEC). Dr. Preus, who had been a member of the team, presented a report on the visit. The other team members had been Metropolitan John of Helsinki, the Rev. Fred Kaan and Mr. Koshy. They had met leaders of WCC member churches and PEC, the Secretary of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference, and the Prime Minister, General Jaruzelski. Dr. Preus spoke of the programme of PEC, particularly with regard to the distribution of food aid. The importance of the relationships with the WCC had been mentioned frequently. There were signs of improvement in relationships between the churches in the PEC and the Roman Catholic Church.

The team had made the following recommendations:

a) The humanitarian assistance programme of ecumenical agencies now coordinated by CICARWS should be continued.

b) In Western countries which have initiated economic measures against Poland, churches should express their concern to their governments about the effect on ordinary people of Poland of the use of food as a political weapon.

c) Initiatives for dialogue within Poland among the various parties involved should be encouraged.

d) While fully recognizing that steps for ecumenical relations within Poland have to be taken by churches there, further consultations between the Polish Ecumenical Council and the Roman Catholic Church have to be encouraged.

e) Ecumenical organizations should play a role in gathering and interpreting information on Poland in active cooperation with their member churches.

f) In order to ensure regular communication with the churches in Poland and to assist them in their tasks during this difficult period fraternal visits to and from Poland should be encouraged and facilitated. These should include visits from and to churches in Western countries, Eastern countries and in those of the Third World.

g) Support for the churches and the people of Poland through intercessory prayers should be continued.

Fr. Tsetsis presented a paper on CICARWS material aid assistance to Poland. Since October 1981 this had totalled about $3 million, mostly sent by agencies in the FRG, Scandinavia and the USA. It was estimated that $1 million-worth of goods per month would continue for some time to flow through the PEC.

The Executive Committee agreed to express immense gratitude to the team for doing so thorough a job at short notice, to circulate an edited version of the report, and to commend the recommendations contained in it.

B. Sudan

Mr. Koshy, in presenting the Note on Sudan, referred to four elements which had created a new situation: the mounting economic crisis; the impact of the Islamic renaissance; the renewed controversy in the autonomous Southern region of the country; and the strategic role of Sudan in the new alliances in the region. The discovery of oil in the South and the proposal to divide the area into three regions had serious implications and the possible undermining of the 1972 agreement would have repercussions not only in the Sudan but also outside the region. The churches in Sudan had been in touch with the WCC.

After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to ask CCIA to continue to give special attention to the situation in Sudan, and to maintain close contact with the AACC on this matter.

C. Ethiopia

Mr. Koshy presented a Note on new developments in Ethiopia and the problems facing the churches there. Metropolitan Gregorios stressed that church leaders outside the country should be careful not to exert too much pressure on the government on behalf of Ethiopian churches. Dr. de Santa Ana referred to the development programme being undertaken in cooperation with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

D. Egypt

Mr. Weingärtner referred to measures taken against Coptic Orthodox and Muslim leaders by President Sadat, his assassination, and the new policies of President Mubarak. Many Coptic Orthodox Christians felt unable to continue the normal functioning of the Church until the situation of the arrested clergy and Pope Shenouda had been resolved. Others saw it as a time to reassess the role of the Church and to seek renewal from within. There had been increasing ecumenical endeavours, e.g. the Christmas message of the Coptic Orthodox, Coptic Evangelical and Coptic Catholic Churches were issued together under the Ecumenical Advisory Council.

Ms. Assaad reported on a meeting held at Bossey after the Dresden Central Committee meeting for Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic church leaders in Egypt, which had agreed to form an Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Advisory Council with two sub-committees, which were now engaged in various activities, including dialogue with Muslim extremists.

E. Central America

Mr. Weingärtner introduced the Note. The situation in the area had continued to deteriorate. In El Salvador and Guatemala violence was escalating and a large increase in US government military aid had just been announced. On 11 February the NCCC/USA had appealed to the heads of its member churches to urge the US Government to seek a negotiated rather than a military solution. Elections were due on 28 March in El Salvador and 7 March in Guatemala. A delegation from the British Council of Churches had asked the British Government not to send observers to the elections because they were only meant to legitimize the existing government. The refugee situation in Honduras was critical as the government removed refugees from camps near the El Salvador border, in order to create free-fire zones where refugees now cross the border for refuge.

F. Ecumenical Team Visit to Turkey, 30 November - 4 December 1981

Dr. Rubeiz presented the purpose and outcome of the ecumenical team visit to Turkey which had included official church and community contacts. The visit had helped to establish avenues of solidarity and partnership with the churches. There was a general feeling of satisfaction with this visit. It was suggested that appealing to the Government of Turkey in a confidential but direct manner might be the best way to preserve the rights of Christians in the country.

G. Mr. Theodor van Boven

Mr. Hsu presented a Note on the impending departure of Mr. van Boven, Director of the United Nations Division on Human Rights. He spoke of the close association of CCIA with this Division and the implications of Mr. van Boven's departure.

On the proposal of the General Secretary, the Executive Committee agreed to appoint a group, consisting of Metropolitan Gregorios, Dr. Simatupang and Dr. Wedel, with CCIA staff, to consider possible action.

At a later session, Dr. Wedel, on behalf of the group, proposed that a letter be sent by the Moderator to the Secretary-General of the UN and presented a draft text. After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to ask the Moderator to convey to the UN Secretary-General its concern about the change of leadership of the Human Rights Commission.

6. ORTHODOX CONCERNS

Prof. Sabev reported on the follow-up of the recommendations of the Sofia Consultation which had been given general endorsement by the Central Committee in Dresden. With regard to the first cluster of questions, including Assembly preparations, Orthodox participation in the drafting of WCC documents and the strengthening of the presence of Orthodox thinking in WCC activities, Orthodox contributions to the issue papers had been solicited and a number of Orthodox had participated in the consultation on the theme held in Grandchamp. An Orthodox Theological Symposium on the theme, held in Damascus, 5-9 February 1982, had been attended by both Eastern and Oriental Orthodox representatives. Further study would be given in the pre-Assembly period and in the Assembly itself to the questions of the proportional representation of Orthodox churches on official WCC bodies and increased Orthodox representation in committees and on the staff.

The second area of recommendations concerned changes in the Constitution and Rules of the WCC and needed more careful study. There were no constitutional difficulties regarding the inclusion of Greek as a working language of the WCC but it was a matter to be carefully looked into as to its practical feasibility. Other specific issues with theological and ecclesiological implications, namely, the reference to baptism in the Basis and the procedure for the adoption of documents reflecting the emerging ecumenical consensus on doctrinal questions, had been referred to the Faith and Order Committee meeting in Lima. The heavy agenda of the Commission had not allowed for sufficient discussion of these delicate and important matters.

The third group of issues arising from the Sofia Consultation, such as the Orthodox understanding of ecumenism and contribution to various programmes called for intensive theological study and reflection. This process had begun and would continue with the full involvement of the Orthodox Task Force and in the framework of the visitation programme.

The report and related material from the Sofia Consultation would be published shortly.

Archbishop Kirill, in thanking the General Secretariat for the work done on these questions, particularly by the consultation in Damascus, said that the problems faced by the Orthodox in the WCC were now clearer, but further study was needed and it was essential that concrete proposals be brought to the Assembly. He expressed disappointment that the Faith and Order Commission in Lima had not been able to give sufficient time to the matters referred to it by the Central Committee. Prof. Sabev and Dr. Lazareth pointed to the wide ecumenical significance of the issues raised. The Lima meeting, having inaugurated the discussion, had felt it would be premature to speak definitively on these issues and had suggested that more time should be given

to them and in a wider context than Faith and Order. His Holiness Iliya II was grateful for the greater understanding between Orthodox and Protestant churches. Orthodox churches wanted both to learn from the Protestant churches and to contribute to them and to the WCC.

The General Secretary expressed gratitude to Prof. Bria who had organized a number of consultations of Orthodox theologians and others to discuss major WCC concerns and programmes. He hoped that soon after the Assembly and before the first meeting of the new Central Committee there could be consultation with Orthodox representatives to consider their future participation in planning the work of the WCC. Archbishop Kirill hoped that such a consultation could be held before the Assembly, and that at the forthcoming Central Committee the issues might be more clearly defined and a solution found.

The Programme Sub-Committee was asked to give further consideration to Orthodox concerns.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II reported that the Programme Sub-Committee had considered steps taken in follow-up of the decisions of Central Committee at Dresden, in response to the recommendations coming from the Sofia consultation of May 1981. Recognizing that conditions did not yet permit it to bring specific proposals to the Executive Committee on some of the issues, the Programme Sub-Committee recommended:

i. concerning the insertion of baptism into the Basis of the WCC: that a consultation take place with competent persons from the main traditions within the WCC in order to identify the main theological and ecclesiological issues raised by this proposal; that a full dossier, including the statement on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, be compiled reflecting the prior discussion on the Basis; that a report and recommendations be brought to the Executive Committee in July 1982;

ii. concerning the procedure used for the adoption of documents reflecting the emerging ecumenical consensus on doctrinal issues: that the General Secretary take the steps necessary to prepare a draft rule for the consideration of the next meeting of the Executive Committee setting out a clear procedure by which concerns expressed by the delegation of a member church regarding a proposed vote on matters considered to affect the doctrinal identity of that church could responsibly and seriously be taken into account;

iii. concerning the proportional representation of Orthodox churches on official WCC bodies: that the General Secretary arrange for a careful study of the issues involved and bring a memorandum to the Executive Committee in July 1982;

iv. concerning recommendations which had been commended to the General Secretary for immediate implementation: that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee indicating the ways in which Orthodox churches have participated in the work of the WCC since the Nairobi Assembly.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

Prof. Bria presented the document, "Jesus Christ - the Life of the World", reflections on the main theme of the Assembly from the Orthodox Working Group meeting in Damascus. His Beatitude Ignatios IV had chaired the meeting and speakers had come from several Orthodox churches. The document, whose main orientation was the Patristic understanding of Christology, was offered as part of the process of study in the pre-Assembly period. It would be sent to all member churches and it was hoped it would help them to see their relations in a new perspective. In addition, it was planned to publish a book on the Orthodox interpretation of the Assembly theme, including a variety of articles, commentaries, essays, iconography and hymnology.

Metropolitan Gregorios, who had contributed to the final text of the document on the basis of a number of preparatory papers, highlighted a number of aspects: a) Jesus should be presented both as the man from Nazareth and the Son of God; b) the life of the world includes not only Christians but all humanity and the whole cosmos; c) the life of Jesus Christ must always be seen in relation to the life of the Holy Spirit; d) we see the evil in the world but must also point to the good already in it; e) Synergia means that God has chosen to work through us; f) we must be open both to the healing and saving power of God and open to the world so that Jesus Christ becomes the life of the world, but this does not imply that the eucharistic community loses its own identity; g) the distinction between the unity of Christians, i.e. Christians now living, and the unity of the Church, which is much wider and includes all who have gone before; h) the Orthodox believe they bring something essential to the richness of the ecumenical fellowship.

Bishop Hempel said he had read the document with great joy because it showed how much Protestants have to learn from the riches of the Orthodox tradition. However, the faith of the individual and the faith of the Church did not seem to be mentioned. He asked how the theology in the document was being applied to such problems as hunger and militarism.

His Holiness Karekin II also said that the Damascus document was rich in theology, helpful and provocative in relation to the Vancouver theme. He asked that the relation between the long history and tradition of the Orthodox and life today, with its struggles and joys, be brought out more clearly. In times of suffering or persecution, many people drew courage from their

sense of continuing Christian witness. People often spoke of the stagnant life of Orthodox churches which had no missionary activities or social movements, but these minority churches, with no political power, had often had a creative inner life which witnessed to Christ and contributed to the life of the majority. The value of the history, the importance of the suffering and the model of the minority should be more explicit as part of the Orthodox understanding of Life in Christ.

The General Secretary said the Damascus paper offered a clear theological framework for the ongoing dialogue with the Orthodox. He asked for a wide distribution of the text because at the Vancouver Assembly a dialogue among the member churches was of the utmost importance and priority. We should read this text together with other contributions to the Assembly theme.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH IN CHINA

Mr. Koshy reminded the Executive Committee that the churches in China were founder members of the WCC and their collaboration had continued into the 1950s. In the last 25 years events had made their participation impossible. During and after the Cultural Revolution the churches had had many difficulties, but this had also been a period of growth for the churches. In accordance with the principles adopted after the revolution, the Chinese churches had been self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating, and they now wished to reaffirm these principles to strengthen their witness in China. They had made a number of cautious contacts with churches and NCCs and some WCC staff had visited China. Many Chinese church leaders had kept up-to-date with developments in the ecumenical movement but they needed time to interpret these developments to the Church in China. The priorities of Chinese Christians were not necessarily those of churches outside the country. There was a new emphasis on theological education and the distribution of literature useful for the witness of local congregations, but ecclesiological questions were not the most important for them at the moment.

Dr. McCloud, who had recently visited China, stressed the desire of the Church there to move cautiously in relationships. Churches in the West must be careful not to destroy what the Chinese churches had achieved in terms of "post-denominationalism" and must relate to Christians in China in a responsible fashion.

The General Secretary spoke briefly of his meeting in Canada with Bishop K.H. Ting. They had discussed the attitude of the Chinese churches to the WCC and to other churches. The Chinese feared that church-related agencies might use the WCC to establish projects to gain a foothold in China. The Chinese churches must be understood by the churches in North America and Europe as the people of God in China who must determine their own de-

velopment. Visits from different parts of the world would need to be worked out very carefully with the Chinese.

In reply to questions, Dr. Potter said there were about three and a half million Roman Catholics and two million Protestants in China. There were some twenty women out of the 52 theological students in the seminary in Nanking. Archbishop Kirill and Protopresbyter Borovoy spoke of the interest of the Russian Orthodox Church in having more information about and contacts with the Orthodox in China.

The General Secretary indicated that study of the situation would continue but that no special action of the Executive Committee was proposed at this meeting.

8. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

Dr. Raiser introduced the discussion by referring to events since the Executive Committee in February 1981 had discussed the proposed visit of the Pope to Geneva. Papal tours in various parts of the world raised the question of the meaning and ecumenical significance of these visits and their implications for other churches in the countries visited. The Encyclical on Human Labour had spoken positively about trade union rights but had left open many questions at the centre of ecumenical debate, such as the structure of production. The Instruction on the Human Family included a number of forward-looking statements on mixed marriages, but reaffirmed many of the most traditional Roman Catholic positions on family life. Bilateral relationships between the Roman Catholic Church and communions of churches related to the WCC, including Lutherans and Anglicans, had made significant advances, but bilateral dialogues did not seem to make the search for unity easier. The future direction of relations between the Roman Catholic Church and WCC member churches should be reassessed but situations varied and the WCC should be ready to respond in different ways.

Fifth Report of the Joint Working Group (JWG)

Dr. Raiser reminded the Executive Committee that the present mandate of the JWG, approved by the Nairobi Assembly, was coming to an end. The fifth report would give an account of the work accomplished in the three priority areas: unity, common witness, and social collaboration. There was basic agreement about the goal of unity and the commitment to it, but it was difficult to find specific, effective ways to move the churches towards that goal. The possibilities of the JWG to be effective had become more limited; it was increasingly becoming the liaison between staff of the Curia and the WCC rather than the link between the Roman Catholic Church and member churches of the Council. Should the JWG in future concentrate on consultations, staff visits and publications? Was this the ultimate fulfilment

of the vision which had led to its formation? The report tried to show how the JWG could remain faithful to its original mandate and envisaged some modest steps for the next few years.

In discussion, several members spoke of the state of relations with the Roman Catholic Church in their own country. Metropolitan Gregorios drew a distinction between local and official relationships: much cooperation was possible on the local level.

Metropolitan Antonie, being mandated by His Beatitude Patriarch Justin, presented a declaration recalling the history of uniatism in Transsylvania which had divided the Orthodox Church in 1700 by the establishment of a so-called Greek-Catholic Church. In 1948 the unity of the Orthodox Church had been restored. Two former Uniates were now Orthodox bishops. The Romanian Orthodox Church had manifested on many occasions its desire to have good relationships with the Roman Catholic Church. It was all the more alarmed by a speech of H.H. Pope John Paul II on 6 January 1982, in which he called the former Uniates from Romania to fidelity with Rome, repeating the same call to division as in 1700.

Metropolitan Antonie then reported to the Executive Committee that the Patriarch had written a strong letter of protest to the Pope, and had indicated that unless a satisfactory reply was received he would inform all the Orthodox Churches about the matter.

The question of Roman Catholic relationships and the fifth report of the Joint Working Group were referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II reported that the Programme Sub-Committee had considered the draft of the fifth report of the Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC. The Sub-Committee had noted that the draft report presents an objective account of the activities of the Joint Working Group.

The Sub-Committee however had recognized that the ecumenical situation regarding relationships between the Roman Catholic Church and some member churches of the WCC was passing through more complex and in some cases more critical times than in earlier years.

The Sub-Committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed, that the General Secretary share the concerns expressed during this meeting of the Executive Committee with the appropriate partners on the Roman Catholic side.

9. REVIEW OF WCC STRUCTURES, POLICIES AND WORKING METHODS

Mr. Coïdan presented the report. The Central Committee in Dresden, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, had asked that a review be undertaken of the Council's programmes, policies and structures. Following a first discussion by the Officers in December 1981, a study process was initiated which had involved the General Secretariat, the Staff Executive Group, the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources Task Force and various staff members in unit level discussions. The Unit II Executive Group had also continued its reflection on the future structure of that unit. The report summarized the state of the study process and indicated some of the directions which the Executive Committee might wish to see pursued.

The appointment of Deputy General Secretaries to serve as unit staff moderators had helped to foster coordinated action among and within the programme units. But further measures were still needed in several aspects of the Council's structure and activity, i.e. decision-making structures (governing bodies, commissions, etc.), implementing structures (inter-programme coordination, relationship of programmes with total WCC), geographical structures (regional task forces, area desks), consultative structures (meetings and consultations), and communication structures (who speaks, for whom, to whom, on behalf of whom). The paper raised questions on each of these aspects in order to stimulate further discussion. Mr. Coïdan stressed that the spirit of the review should be understood to respond to the calling to reaffirm the wholeness and integrity of the Council.

After discussion, the document was referred to a joint meeting of the Programme and Staffing Sub-Committees.

At a later session, Ms. Skuse presented the report of this ad hoc sub-committee which, with one amendment, was adopted as follows:

The Committee received with appreciation the document relating to the Review of WCC Structure, Policies and Working Methods undertaken by the Officers under Central Committee mandate.

The problem areas as defined by the document were recognized to be relevant to the present situation of the Council. The Committee therefore encourages staff to continue in the directions that have been identified, under the general guidance of the Officers.

It was felt that the questions raised by the document could provide a suitable framework for further study if presented affirmatively, i.e.:

- Measures should be explored to increase the interrelatedness of decision-making structures, to heighten their commonalty

of purpose, to reduce duplication of effort and waste of resources and to make decision-making processes simpler, more informed, transparent and consistent.

- Measures should be explored to make internal WCC structures more supportive of staff integration, coordinated planning, and of sharing of resources and capabilities.

- Measures should be explored to relate WCC activities more clearly to the geographical settings in which these activities are to be expressions of unity and wholeness of the Church.

- Measures should be explored to increase understanding and awareness of the role and representativeness of consultative structures and of their relationship to the decision-making structures of the Council.

- Measures should be explored to ensure more effective liaison and coordination between the various sub-unit communication activities and the overarching purpose and strategies of the Council.

During the discussion of the document, numerous comments were made that would need further consideration during the review process such as:

- The respective role and responsibility of the various elements of the WCC structure and their interrelations lacked consistency and clarity.

- Lines of accountability were not clearly defined.

- The distinction between consultative bodies and decision-making bodies should be clarified.

- The role of and relationship to constituency, that of consultative and of advisory bodies needed further study.

- The nominating procedures of commissions and working group members and of consultation participants also required review.

- The possibility of overlapping membership of the various elements of the structure needed further exploration (Central and Executive Committees with Unit Committees, and with commissions and working groups).

In general it was felt that the review process should derive from the purpose of the Council itself as provided by its functions and mandates. It was suggested that the 1971 Structure Committee Report targets could be evaluated in light of the experience gained, and reaffirmed or reassessed in view of the changes that have taken place both within and outside the WCC constituency since that time.

It was further suggested that the opportunity offered by the visitation programme to listen to the member churches' perception and understanding of the structures of the Council and to identify issues that should be raised during the review process, could be very valuable.

It was recommended that the Officers pursue the study undertaken in its present orientation and that several other members of the Executive Committee should be involved in this process in preparation for the next Central Committee meeting.

It was hoped clear principles and guidelines could be brought with specific recommendations to the Central Committee by the Officers and the Executive Committee next July.

10. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms. Skuse presented the report, as follows:

A. Central Committee membership

It is recommended that the nomination of Bishop Athanasios (Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt) to replace Bishop Samuel be approved and presented to Central Committee for action.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

B. Affiliation

It is recommended that the applications from the Council of Churches in Namibia and the United Christian Council of Sierra Leone to be Associate Councils of the WCC be approved and presented to Central Committee for action.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

C. Assembly participants

The sub-committee reviewed the document on Assembly delegates and other participants.

1. Delegates (85%)

a. It was noted that about 70 churches have not responded to the invitation to name their delegates to the Assembly. It is recommended that the General Secretary be asked to write to all those churches indicating that the deadline for the nomination of delegates has been extended to 15 May 1982 but that, because of the need for Central Committee to nominate the remaining 15% of delegates in July 1982, seats cannot be held after the May deadline, unless the church indicates a firm date by which its delegates will be named.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

b. It was noted that a number of churches have named fewer delegates than their allocation. It is recommended that the General Secretary write to these churches to ask whether or not they intend to name their full quota and, if not, to give their reasons. It is further recommended that seats not filled by member churches be allocated with the 15%.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

c. It was noted with satisfaction that most of the churches have complied with the Central Committee criteria regarding the appointment of local pastors, lay persons, women and youth. However, a significant number of churches has not done so, thus adversely affecting the proportion of lay persons, women and youth in the Assembly. It is recommended that the Moderator and the General Secretary send a letter to those churches reminding them of the Central Committee criteria and asking them to reconsider their delegations and report to the General Secretary, and that a further report be made to the Officers and Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

2. Delegates (15%)

It is recommended that the General Secretary share with member churches the names of persons who have been proposed other than by their own churches for consideration by Central Committee, asking whether the churches would be willing to appoint them if nominated by Central Committee. Proposals for 15% nominations will be considered by the Executive Committee in July for action by Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Some concern was expressed that a number of churches had not complied with the criteria for their delegations but had sent nominations for the 15% category. The General Secretary spoke of the need to help churches to realise that the criteria were based on a deep theological understanding of the Church as the whole people of God, and that the different categories should be represented.

3. "Fraternal" delegates

This category is intended by the Constitution (Article VI) to include the non-voting representatives of world confessional bodies, world ecumenical organizations and national and regional councils. In order to provide for more inclusive language, it is recommended that the Executive Com-

mittee propose to Central Committee that wherever the term "fraternal delegates" appears in the Rules, these be amended to read "delegated representatives". (III.1.b.5 and III.1.c.1)

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

4. Observers

a. It is recommended that the following organizations with which the WCC maintains relationships be invited to send one observer each to the Assembly:

regional associations of lay centres
regional associations for theological education
regional ecumenical youth organizations
German Evangelical Kirchentag
Broederkring (a fraternal association of mainly black pastors of the Presbyterian Church in South Africa).

b. It is recommended that the following be added to the list of international organizations invited to send an observer to the Assembly:

International Commission of Jurists
International Medical Commission for Health and Human Rights
UNIDO

It is further recommended that requests from other organizations to send observers to the Assembly or proposals by the General Secretary be presented to the Officers for action.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The report of the Nominations Sub-Committee was adopted.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Dr. McCloud.

1. Review of 1981 Financial Situation

It is not possible by the middle of February to provide a reliable comprehensive report on the financial outcome of the previous year. It is believed however, that the major trends indicated below will be substantiated when the final accounts have been prepared and audited.

Nineteen-eighty-one was a year during which the Council continued to experience what press reports have called the "dollar switchback". The US currency started the year at Sfr 1.76, rose to

a level of Sfr 2.21 by August and ended the year almost at the point it began - at Sfr 1.80. The D-Mark on the other hand fell quite considerably during the year, from a level of Sfr 0.91 to 0.80, a drop of just over 12%. Other currencies, notably the £ sterling and the French franc also reduced in value, while the Swedish kroner was officially devalued in November.

The WCC's budget rates for 1981 were US$ 1 = Sfr 1.55 and DM 1 = Sfr 0.90. Accounting rates were revised on a monthly basis and these rates were, so far as the US dollar was concerned, always in excess, sometimes well in excess, of the budget rates. The converse was the case with the D-Mark. On the whole, income, in terms of Swiss francs, was higher than budgeted in many sub-units. Undesignated income was, however, only marginally higher - at Sfr 5,416,551 compared with a budget of Sfr 5,300,000.

Apart from the volatility of exchange rates, the other principal feature of the year was the maintenance of high interest rates in every major financial centre. Rates in the US were especially high, but even in Switzerland the latter part of the year saw interest rates at levels which had not been experienced for some years. Total interest earned in 1981 was about Sfr 5.5 million; most of this is related to trust funds and will be credited to them.

Undesignated fund position

The following is a summary of the estimated undesignated fund situation of the Council, at December 31, 1981:

Undesignated income	Sfr 5,416,551	(Estimate: Sfr 5,300,000)
Undesignated funds required to cover budgets dependent on such income	Sfr 5,820,286	(Estimate: Sfr 5,915,000 + Sfr 100,000 contingencies)
Shortfall	Sfr 403,735	

This shortfall conforms to expectations and compares with the Sfr 715,000 budgeted shortfall. Staff were asked to find means for covering Sfr 315,000, and some savings in expenditure have been made.

A substantial part of the costs of the Dresden Central Committee meeting in 1981 was borne by the GDR churches and the total effect was a saving of Sfr 96,000 compared with the cost of a Central Committee in Geneva.

The Executive Committee

i. noted with gratitude the financial contribution made to the costs of the 1981 Central Committee by the churches of the GDR, and

ii. recorded with deep appreciation the hospitality received, the insights gained and the fellowship enjoyed during the meetings in Dresden.

Central Committee has already agreed to the transfer of Sfr 200,000 from the Operating Balance and Sfr 200,000 from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve to cover any shortfall in 1981.

Exchange situation

A particular feature of the Council's policy in 1981 was the reduction of the US dollar exposure previously created. An additional $ 6.5 million were purchased, resulting in exchange losses totalling some Sfr 800,000. As the additional dollars earned interest at much higher rates than could have been obtained on other currencies, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that these exchange losses should be covered by interest earnings. This will reduce the total interest available for allocation in 1981 to Sfr 4.7 million. With the year-end US$/Sfr rate being close to its January 1 level, and with such a small dollar exposure, the loss on exchange on conversion of dollar assets and liabilities into Swiss francs at the year-end was minimal.

The Executive committee accepted this recommendation.

The effective level of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve is now about Sfr 2,300,000. The Central Committee has agreed that the minimum level of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve shall be Sfr 2 million, and the Finance Sub-Committee sees no reason to change this policy at this time.

Operating Balance

The Operating Balance, which is the accumulation of previous surpluses of undesignated funds and is available for use anywhere in the WCC, is estimated at Sfr 860,000 at 31 December 1981, and after the crediting of interest and the use of Sfr 200,000 to help to cover the 1981 shortfall.

Designated funds

All designated fund balances are higher than previously anticipated at 31 December. In the case of CICARWS the fund balance has increased by about Sfr 1 million.

All fund balances are in excess of the minimum level stipulated by Central Committee.

Reserves

Estimated balances of reserves at 31 December 1981 are as follows:

General Reserve:	Sfr 1,921,000
WCC Emergency Reserve:	Sfr 3,001,103

2. Changes in accounting policy and procedures

a. The World Council holds various fund balances and reserves which are in excess of its immediate needs. Some of these funds are invested in portfolios managed by various bankers. Most of the investments are in fixed-term bonds.

In the past these investments have been valued at the lower of cost or market value. When interest rates rise, as they have done over the past two years, the market value falls sharply and interest has been set aside to cover these falls in value. This has the effect of crediting uneven interest rates to the funds held by the Council from one year to another.

As it is the normal intention to hold fixed-term bonds until maturity, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends a change of policy to provide that fixed-term bonds be valued in future at the lower of book cost or redemption value, commencing with the valuation at 31 December 1981, thus making no provision for the fall in market value during that year. This proposed change of policy has the approval of the Investment Advisory Group and the Auditors. The change will need to be noted in the published accounts of the Council.

b. The Finance Sub-Committee noted that the Auditors had recommended and the Audit Committee had approved the separation for accounting purposes of dollar and Swiss franc funds and related investments and recommends that this change of policy be implemented from 1 January 1982. The effect of this change will be to give greater clarity in and better control of the accounts.

c. During 1981 the World Council used monthly exchange rates for accounting purposes. The Investment Advisory Group has for some time recommended the use of daily exchange rates but, for technical reasons, the change to such a policy was not possible in 1981. The Finance Sub-Committee is advised that revised arrangements will now permit the use of daily exchange rates and recommends that this change of policy be implemented with effect from 1 January 1982.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

3. Allocation of 1981 Interest

The effect of the change in the policy of valuing fixed-term investments, outlined in paragraph 2a) above, is to make available at the end of 1981 an additional amount of Sfr 1,010,000.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that, from the total amount of interest available for allocation in 1981:

a) an amount of Sfr 378,500 be provided as a minimum fund balance for those sub-units which are wholly or substantially dependent on undesignated fund income and which do not already hold such balances;

b) an amount of Sfr 500,000 be added to the General Reserve to cover contingencies.

Such action is consistent with previous policies laid down by the Central and Executive Committees, in particular that related to the establishment of minimum fund balances and the goal of achieving a sound financial position by the time of the Sixth Assembly.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

4. Cost of Living Review

Staff Rules and Regulations provide for a cost of living review every six months.

Regulation III 1.06 states:

> "The cost of living index in Geneva shall be reviewed twice a year as at December 31 and June 30. If the cost of living has increased by 4% or more since the last revision, the salary scale may be adapted effective as from April 1 and October 1."

The last cost of living increase was agreed by the Executive Committee in February 1981, based on the index at 31 January 1981, which was 190 points. As at 31 December 1981 the index had risen to 198.8, representing an increase of 4.6% in the cost of living.

In 1981 total staff costs were Sfr 18.4 million. In a full year a 4.6% increase would cost an extra Sfr 846,400. As any increase can only take effect from 1 April 1982 the increased cost would be Sfr 634,800 in 1982. Approved 1982 budgets provide for such an increase.

After receiving the advice of the Staff Representative Group (SRG) and the Staff Executive Group (SEG), the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that staff salary scales be increased by 4.6% with effect from 1 April 1982.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

5. Pension Increases

The Executive Committee has previously agreed (February 1980, Minutes p. 34) that each time a decision is made on cost of living increases for active staff, it also decides upon such increases as it may deem appropriate for pensions in payment.

On advice received from the Board of the Retirement Fund, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that pensions paid from the WCC Retirement Fund be increased as of 1 April 1982 by 3%, provided that the Consulting Actuaries' valuation of the Fund as at 31 December 1981 shall indicate that the cost of this increase can be absorbed by the actuarial reserve held in the Fund. If the Actuaries' valuation indicates that the cost can not be absorbed by the actuarial reserve, the Finance Sub-Committee will consider at its next meeting alternative means for covering the increase to pensions in payment.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends (a) that deferred pensions be increased with effect from 1 April 1982, by the difference between the interest rate actually earned by the Retirement Fund in 1981, and the actuarial rate of 4%, and (b) that this increase be implemented only if the cost can be absorbed by the actuarial reserve as calculated at 31 December 1981.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

6. Income Projections

The undesignated income received in 1981 was 2.2% above target. The increase over 1980 was +4.9% in spite of the drop of the Deutsche Mark which fell 12% from Sfr 0.90 to Sfr 0.80 during the year. The resulting reduction in undesignated income was Sfr 110,000. The overall increase was mainly due to higher levels of support and a stronger US$.

The trends observed over the 1979 to 1981 period indicate that the 1982 projection established at the time of the Dresden Central Committee session remains valid in spite of the drop of the Deutsche Mark and even though the EKD has again decided to maintain its contribution at the 1979 level (DM 2.2 million).

In 1983, it is expected that the undesignated income could reach the Sfr 5.8 million level (or a 4.1% increase over 1982). This target seems reasonable provided the EKD does finally agree to increase its undesignated contribution. Since the EKD froze the level of its contribution, the Swiss inflation will have been 20.3% to which the 12% loss of the value of the DM against the Swiss franc must be added.

The size of the total targeted increase over 1982 (+4.1%) is relatively limited to take the effort already made by the churches for the financing of the Sixth Assembly into account. In this respect it is interesting to note that the undesignated contributions in the 1974 to 1977 period around the 1975 Nairobi Assembly were not adversely affected except by the exchange situation. Without this, the income during the Assembly period would have increased in spite of an actual drop of US$ contributions from the churches of the United States.

The total programme contributions are projected to reach a level of Sfr 20,543,898 in 1983. This is 10% lower than the comparable amount actually received in 1981. This is due to the fact that several sub-unit projections appear to be too low, in particular those of CWME and CICARWS. CWME has in fact again increased its unrestricted reserves for the second year in a row. CICARWS, except for 1982, has regularly announced sizeable fund balance reductions and fortunately has just as regularly achieved a better year-end position than was anticipated. The forecasted fund balance reductions total Sfr 1,547,763, of which over half relates to CWME and CICARWS, and could therefore be seriously overestimated.

The total anticipated shortfall in 1983 is Sfr 2,125,653 or 6.7% of the total budget. Of this amount, 73% will be covered from fund balances, in line with established policies regarding minimum fund balances.

The rest, amounting to Sfr 577,890 or 1.8% of the total budget, is a deficit in undesignated income. In conformity with Central Committee instructions, proposals are made elsewhere to bring the total budget into balance.

If the 1983 anticipated production and investment income is actually reached and if the 1983 undesignated income and programme contributions attain the same levels as the 1981 actuals, the total income would be over Sfr 32 million and the proposed 1983 expense budget would be balanced. It therefore appears that in 1983, current income could globally exceed current expenses provided the member churches can maintain their present level of support in Swiss francs. However, since 80% of the income received is designated, imbalances at programme or sub-unit levels will still occur.

Outlook beyond Vancouver

It is very difficult to delineate with any precision what the income situation of the WCC will be in 1984 and 1985. However, since the general economic scene remains quite uncertain in the countries of the main donor churches and agencies of the Council, large increases should not be expected.

First estimates indicate that yearly increases in total income will be approximately 5.3%, and that the per annum increase range would be as follows:

Undesignated income between 5% and 6.5%
Programme income between 3.5% and 5.0%.

It is apparent from the above figures that there is likely to be no major change in the income situation following the Assembly. This again underlines that the rebalancing of current income versus current expenses will require the review that was decided by the Central Committee in Dresden last August.

7. Financial Implications of Staff Appointments

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the financial implications of staff appointments approved by the Staff Sub-Committee.

8. Review of 1983 Budgets

The 1983 Budgets total Sfr 32,027,113 against an approved budget of Sfr 30,960,570 in 1982, an increase of 3.5%. Ninteen-eighty-three Budget rates are US$ 1 = Sfr 1.55 and DM 1 = Sfr 0.80.

Designated fund balances are expected to reduce by Sfr 1,657,961. Forty percent of this reduction is in the CICARWS budget, and the Finance Sub-Committee has noted the intention of CICARWS Officers to cover the shortfall by the surplus received in 1981. Other major reductions in fund balance are anticipated in CWME and CMC. In the case of CWME, the reduction can also be covered from the surplus received in 1981; CMC has adequate fund balances available to make the budgeted reduction, within the principles laid down for the use of such balances.

Undesignated fund requirements in excess of income in 1983 are estimated at Sfr 577,890.

The requirements include an amount of Sfr 91,595 to cover the costs of the Documentation Service, incorporated in the General Secretariat budget. The Finance Sub-Committee is not aware of any long-term plan for funding the costs of the Documentation Service and recommends that in 1983 they be covered by a transfer from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve. It should be pointed out that this is possible only for 1983.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the remaining shortfall be covered as follows:

a) By transfer from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve — Sfr 200,000

b) By allocation of undesignated income to sub-units requiring such income using the same criteria and basis as for 1982 budgets — Sfr 80,000

c) By transfer from the balance of funds received in 1981 from the CICARWS Service Programme Reserve - Sfr 50,000 each to Youth and Scholarships — Sfr 100,000

d) By requesting the Education sub-unit to cover part of the remaining needs of the Scholarships operating budget by transfer from its fund balance — Sfr 100,000

approx. Sfr 480,000

e) The remaining amount would be covered by the Operating Balance.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that consideration be given to integrating fully the Education and Scholarships budgets with the aim of ensuring that the Scholarships budget is thereafter fully covered by designated funds.

Internal transfers

CWME proposes to reduce in 1983 its transfer to DFI from the 1982 level of Sfr 177,000 to Sfr 130,500. This proposal is not acceptable if it has the effect of increasing the DFI sub-unit's dependency on undesignated income. The Finance Sub-Committee nevertheless applauds the desire of CWME to make future transfers to the Council as a whole, for use as may be determined by the Central or Executive Committees. It recommends the Executive Committee to request CWME to consider making such transfers in 1983 and 1984 at the 1982 total transfer level in order to provide an adequate transition period. If donors should meanwhile decrease the level of their giving to CWME, the Finance Sub-Committee will review the situation when it considers 1984 Budgets. The Sub-Committee requests that it receive a report in July 1982 on this matter.

In the light of the proposals outlined above, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the 1983 Budgets be approved.

New York Office

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends the approval of the proposed transfer to the New York Office provided in the 1983 Budgets.

The proposed budget has been reviewed and, pending further action by the US Conference Board, the Finance Sub-Committee will recommend it for approval in July 1982.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

9. Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

a) New sewer system

The Ecumenical Institute is required to contribute to the cost of a new sewer system and purifying station, which the local Commune is obliged by cantonal law to provide for the Institute's and neighbouring properties. The total cost of the necessary works to the Ecumenical Institute will be approximately Sfr 200,000.

The Finance Sub-Committee believes that the World Council, as owners of the property, should take full responsibility for meeting this expenditure. It recommends that the total cost be borne by the World Council, and that it be amortized over a period of several years, using for amortization purposes the amounts of interest which would otherwise have been credited to the General Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

b) Alterations and improvements to the Château de Bossey

The Finance Sub-Committee considered a proposal whereby alterations would be made to the Château de Bossey with the primary purpose of providing accommodation for handicapped persons. The Finance Sub-Committee, while recognizing the importance of the proposals, would prefer to receive advice from the Board of the Ecumenical Institute before making recommendations. It feels it would be helpful, however, to express its present view that means to service the costs of such alterations and improvements should be found by the Institute.

10. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Finance Sub-Committee received reports on the state of the Pre-Assembly Visitation Fund and on the present funding situation of the Sixth Assembly.

It also received reports on the development of the new computer system introduction and on the follow-up of the Annecy Finance Consultation. It recognized that most recommendations of the Consultation are now being studied in the wider context of the structure review process.

11. Provident and Retirement Fund Boards meeting

Matters arising from the meeting of the Provident and Retirement Fund Boards were reported. The Boards' recommendations to increase pensions in payment and deferred pensions have already been referred to in this Report of the Finance Sub-Committee (see item 5).

The Finance Sub-Committee, on the advice of the Boards, recommends that the appointment of Bishop Hans-Heinrich Harms as a member of the Boards be renewed for a period of three years when his present term expires in March 1982.

Mr. Patrick Coïdan has been appointed as Secretary of the Boards as from the date of his taking up his responsibilities as Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

12. Investment Advisory Group membership

The Finance Sub-Committee wishes to place on record its sincere thanks to the members of the Investment Advisory Group for the guidance they provide.

The Sub-Committee recommends that the membership of the Investment Advisory Group be increased from four to five by the appointment of Mr. J.H. Strawson.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

13. Revised guidelines for the acceptance of government funds by the World Council of Churches

In April 1975, the Executive Committee agreed to preliminary guidelines on the use of government funds, suggesting that they be tried for one year and revised before final adoption as a World Council policy. No revised proposal has been submitted until this time.

Since the 1975 consideration by the Executive Committee, recommendations related to the use and/or transfer of government funds have emerged in the Newby Report, in the CICARWS Commission (1978), and in the June 1980 ESR Report.

In view of experience since 1975 and of the fact that there is a lack of standard practices throughout the WCC, the time has come to proceed with the establishment of clear financial guidelines.

The present proposed revision is an effort to state more clearly the affirmation which the years have borne out as well as to state recommended restrictions.

The World Council of Churches accepts funds from government grants, either directly, or through inter-governmental agencies or national church agencies, on the basis of certain policy assumptions. Government funds provided bilaterally to WCC donors and project-holders are a part of the context of experience and concern but are outside the present proposal and seen as a responsibility of the actual recipients. For the present, only those government funds actually solicited and channelled

by the WCC - bilaterally or through local member churches and/or NGOs - are under consideration.

Procedurally the proposed guidelines are consonant with WCC policy (1978) "that all approaches to member churches and donor agencies be cleared through the OICD in order to avoid competing requests".

Therefore the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee adopt the following guidelines:

Guidelines

i. The WCC can accept government funds only for activities which have been identified, authorized and planned in its regular constitutionally-determined programme and policy fora. To retain programme initiative and integrity and to minimize contradiction within the Council and implementing churches and agencies, any WCC staff considering possible application for or acceptance of government funds for a programme or project must have prior discussion and accord with the Office of Income Coordination & Development. OICD will periodically present to the Staff Executive Group the range and status of such grant possibilities and applications to assure coordination between financial and programme/policy relationships to governments. Individual sub-units of the Council are not authorized to solicit nor to receive government funding outside of this process which is designed to ensure the self-hood and priorities of the WCC as a whole.

ii. The acceptance of government funds should not remove the responsibility of the churches themselves for an activity or its support. The WCC must consult with its member churches in the country where government funds are available or offered regarding church endorsement of, assistance in, or objection to, such grant negotiations. Such consultation should include the General Secretariat, Office of Income Coordination & Development, Unit and Sub-Unit Finance Officers, and the Sub-Unit Programme Director.

Issues raised in the consultation process which cannot be resolved by parties involved should be referred by either party to the Finance Committee for discussion and reporting to the Executive Committee. In the event that government funding is available for programmes, the programme staff or project holder should be clearly advised as to the origin of funds and any requirements attendant to acceptance of such monies.

iii. Once an activity has been determined to be a WCC-related mandate, clear consideration must be given to the aspects of the budget which could be submitted for government funding. Government funds should be accepted for speci-

fied objectives and time periods. If high percentages of government funds are used as "seed monies", steps must be undertaken to provide for other funding sources for staff and infrastructure costs over time to avoid possible manipulation by donor priorities, long-term dependence on such funds, and to develop broader church involvement and participation in the programme or project.

iv. However large or small government funding, the integrity of the programme as a church undertaking must be firmly and visibly planted in the policy and programme management control of the WCC and its directly concerned partners. Care should be taken to avoid any imbalance in programme emphasis which distorts WCC or sub-unit priorities, or an imbalance which distorts the nature of any programme or project. For example: distortion may be caused by the very perception of government funding presence in some cases, or by a very large budget availability for one aspect of a programme which meets the government's objectives but which may be a lesser part of the WCC or project holder's objectives.

v. If receipt of government funds carries the obligation for the WCC to provide specialized accounting, auditing and reporting of expenditures in line with that government's accounting or programme evaluation systems, supplemental grant funds must be obtained to cover the costs of such reporting. This is in line with the Central Committee policy (1976) stating that: "Fundamental is the principle that operations undertaken upon designated authorization should not culminate in demands upon undesignated giving".

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

14. Financial situation of CCPD

The Finance Committee took note of the financial difficulties CCPD is facing, due to the action of one donor, and of the actions undertaken by staff to respond to that situation. The Finance Committee requested that a full report on the finances of CCPD be brought to the Finance Committee in July 1982 together with proposed solutions to the present situation.

15. Security

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that, in the light of recent experience, staff be encouraged to explore ways and means to increase the security of the Ecumenical Centre.

16. Thanks

The Finance Sub-Committee wishes to record its deep appreciation for the excellent preparatory work done by the Staff Finance

Policy Group. The Sub-Committee notes here the words expressed to Wesley Kenworthy by the Dresden Central Committee:

> "On the Committee's behalf a personal and special word of appreciation is extended to Wesley Kenworthy who has since his appointment in 1978 made an impact on the financial operations of the Council which has made it possible to submit the kind of report we have presented today. We are deeply grateful to him and pray God's blessing will go with him in his future work."

The Sub-Committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed, that the entire report be approved.

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

Prof. Barkat referred to the action of the Executive Committee in Dresden to postpone decision on the grant to the Dene Nation from the Special Fund until a staff visit and consultation with the Canadian churches and Dene Nation had taken place. He reported that this had been done in October 1981.

The Executive Committee agreed to make a grant of US$ 30,000 from the Special Fund out of 1981 balances.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

The General Secretary presented the proposed programme for the Central Committee meeting. The reports of the Moderator and himself would be given as usual on the first day but, in view of the comments made in Dresden, it was suggested that their discussion be held over until the following day. There would be three plenary presentations on: a) Unity; b) Justice and Service; c) Mission and Evangelism. Central Committee would divide into eight groups across unit lines to discuss the issues for the Assembly. Unit meetings would review staff work done since 1976, and regional meetings would help to review the visitation process. It was suggested that the General Secretary's address might centre on the Assembly sub-themes and their relation to the work of the Council.

The proposed programme, with one amendment, was approved.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates for meetings of the Executive and Central Committees were noted:

15-17 July 1982 (arrival 14 July)	Executive Committee	Geneva
19-28 July 1982	Central Committee	Geneva
28 February - 4 March 1983 (arrival 27 February)	Executive Committee	Geneva
21-23 July 1983 (arrival 20 July)	Executive Committee	Vancouver, Canada

15. CLOSING ACTIONS

Closing worship was led by the Moderator.

APPENDIX 1

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	His Holiness Iliya II Hon. Ms. Justice A.R. Jiagge Dr. T.B. Simatupang Most Rev. O. Sundby Dr. C. Wedel
Officers:	Most Rev. E.W. Scott (Moderator) His Holiness Karekin II (Vice-Moderator) Ms. J. Skuse (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr. P.A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie Mr. H.A. Ashmall Mr. Bena-Silu His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos Rev. J.G. Gatu His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Bishop Dr. H.H. Harms Bishop Dr. J.W. Hempel His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Goundiaev) Rev. J.M. Leite Rev. Dr. J.O. McCloud Rev. Dr. D.W. Preus Ms. D. Sampath Ms. P. Webb
Guest:	Bishop Athanasios of Bodvi
Observers:	Protopresbyter V. Borovoy His Eminence Metropolitan Emilianos
Staff:	Rev. Dr. P. Abrecht Mr. M. Arruda Ms. M. Assaad Prof. Dr. A.M. Barkat Rev. J. Bluck Prof. I. Bria Rev. Dr. K.R. Bridston Ms. G. Cashmore Rev. E. Castro Mr. P. Coïdan Mr. T. Davies Mr. J. Fischer Rev. Dr. K. Hertz

Staff (continued):	Rev. V. Hsu
	Mr. W. Kenworthy
	Mr. N. Koshy
	Rev. Dr. W. Lazareth
	Dr. ma Mpolo Masamba
	Mr. P. Moss
	Rev. W. Perkins
	Rev. Dr. K. Raiser
	Dr. G. Rubeiz
	Prof. T. Sabev
	Rev. Dr. J. de Santa Ana
	Rev. A. Sapsezian
	Rev. Dr. K. Srisang
	Canon D. Tatchell
	Dr. J.B. Taylor
	Dr. R. Traitler
	Fr. G. Tsetsis
	Rev. B. von Wartenberg
	Rev. Dr. H-R. Weber
	Mr. E. Weingärtner
Interpreters:	Mr. A. Chijov
	Ms. I. Friedeberg
	Mr. B. Gagua
	Ms. R. Poulet-Ginglas
Minute writer:	Ms. A. Burrows
Administration:	Ms. R. Green

APOLOGIES

President:	Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Members:	Rev. Dr. Won Yong Kang
	Prof. Kyaw Than

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr. J.O. McCloud (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie
Mr. H.A. Ashmall
Mr. Bena-Silu
Bishop Dr. H.H. Harms
Most Rev. E.W. Scott
Most Rev. O. Sundby
Dr. C. Wedel

Sub-Committee on Programme

His Holiness Karekin II (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Rev. J.G. Gatu
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr. J.W. Hempel
His Holiness Iliya II
Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Rev. Dr. D.W. Preus
Ms. P. Webb

Sub-Committee on Staffing and Nominations

Ms. J. Skuse (Moderator)
Hon. Ms. Justice A.R. Jiagge
Rev. Dr. Won Yong Kang
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill
Rev. J.M. Leite
Ms. D. Sampath
Dr. T.B. Simatupang

APPENDIX III

JESUS CHRIST - THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

ASSEMBLY SUB-THEMES

1. Life, a gift of God

Life is inherited by all creation. We affirm this life as God-given through Christ to be nurtured among all people and in all creation. The Church is called to be the living Body of Christ, whose members experience the new and dynamic life of the Risen Lord.

Yet we confess that Christians share in the neglect and violation of life in all its various forms. We must understand anew and proclaim God's purpose for His world, and exercise a more responsible stewardship of its resources and a greater reverence for life.

2. Life confronting and overcoming death

Christ is risen from the dead. We affirm this risen life in the midst of sinful forces bent upon death and destruction. The Church is called to make manifest God's forgiving and compassionate love for humanity and to struggle against the forces of death.

Yet we confess that we are party to these destructive forces within ourselves and in our world. We must witness to the victory of Christ and to the freedom from death that He has won for us.

3. Life in its fullness

Christ promises life in its fullness - life new and eternal. We affirm that we share here and now in the risen life of Christ as through the Spirit we turn to Him and in discipleship partake of His sufferings. The Church is called to proclaim this gospel to all the world in words and by life, walking the way of the Cross.

Yet we confess that we have been unfaithful to this calling in a world of suffering and deprivation. As those who have a foretaste of this fullness of life, we fulfil our joy as we share it with others and strive for justice and shalom for all.

4. Life in unity

Christ prays that we may all be one. We affirm that God's purpose is to restore all things into unity in Christ. The Church

is called to be a sign of that unity which binds together all generations and all peoples.

Yet we confess that our churches and our world remain divided. We must strive for and manifest that unity in Christ which breaks down the barriers among ourselves and in our world.

APPENDIX IV

ASSEMBLY ISSUES

Out of the many concerns that confront us as we attempt to be obedient to our gospel calling in the contemporary world, we have selected here eight issues that have been prominent on the agenda of the World Council of Churches since the last Assembly. The list is not exhaustive nor exclusive. No one issue is separate in itself; all are inter-related. But each one represents a point of entry which leads to particular emphases in the overall work of the World Council of Churches. Two more issues may be added later that arise out of the process of pre-Assembly visitation and consultation with the churches.

1. Witnessing in a Divided World

Witness is a response to the action of the Holy Spirit, to the living God at work in concrete historical and cultural contexts. In this encounter of the living God with living human situations, the Gospel is heard afresh by the Church. In recent years this had led to new emphases on: living the Gospel among people of other faiths and ideologies; giving an account of our common hope; perceiving God's Kingdom; solidarity with the poor; the community of women and men; the confession of our common faith.

2. Taking Steps Towards Unity

The modern ecumenical movement has been inspired by the conviction that visible unity is God's will for the Church. There are now more steps we can take towards this goal. The statement on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry points to one such important step. So too are the steps churches take towards unity in our daily life together - through common witness, service and solidarity, common worship and spirituality.

3. Moving Towards Participation

The churches can demonstrate a way of living in true participation as we include more fully in our life and councils women and men, young and old, lay people and clergy, disabled and able. By exploring the wider social implications of participation, the churches could enable people to be more responsible and responsive in the daily struggles for a more just society.

4. Healing and Sharing Life in Community

Too many of us live broken lives - broken families, broken communities, broken nations, broken world. We have much to learn about living together as a human family, about creating a healing community, about sharing our resources with our sisters and brothers, about supporting those who struggle with their aliena-

tion and brokenness. The Church of God has a special call to be transformed and to transform. The healing needs to begin with the individual, the congregation and the family, and reach out to the community.

5. Confronting Threats to Peace and Survival

The struggle for peace and survival is crucial today. The main threat is the growth of militarism and the tensions in international relations. The survival of the world depends on many factors, among them the shaping and distorting influence of science and technology on human societies. We must recognise the challenge these developments pose for theological and ethical reflection. Our assumptions about disarmament and peace, about security and survival, need to be examined in order that we may find adequate and appropriate responses.

6. Struggling for Justice and Human Dignity

The struggle for a more just human community is going on everywhere in the world. We are committed to the cause of justice and human dignity. It is a commitment that has called for analysis and action in different manifestations of the struggle - the search for a world economic order, the concern for human rights, combatting racism, striving against the oppression of women, supporting refugees, overcoming world hunger. In such struggles churches are called to work together in ecumenical solidarity with the suffering peoples of the world.

7. Learning in Community

The past decade has seen a radical probing into goals, methods and institutions of education. We have examined and experienced many different ways of learning and listening - through life in community, through formal and non-formal education, through linking the local and the global, through learning in action and through programmes equipping the whole people of God for their ministry and renewal in unity. The churches themselves are called to be learning, teaching and liberating communities.

8. Communicating with Conviction

The communication issue begins with what it is we have to share rather than how to go about sharing it. The choice of communication media, and the methods and motives for using them, follow on from that. The churches' own communication styles, structures and choices are inescapably linked to the communication order of the wider society, reflecting the divisions of rich and poor, power and dependency. We need to work out new criteria as we seek to discover how to communicate the Gospel with credibility and authority.

1983 APPROVED BUDGET IN SWISS FRANCS (AS MODIFIED)

Budget Entity	Total Approved Expense Budget	Required Transfers from Undesignated Funds	Required Transfers from Designated Fund Balances
General Secretariat	1.453.859	1.348.641	
New York Office	180.000	180.000	
OICD	-	-	
WCC Governing Bodies	-	-	
Library	-	-	
Faith & Order	925.615	672.878	
- C W M C	-	-	
C W M E	2.265.880	-	- 240.380
D F I	884.489	436.974	
Church & Society	295.295	287.912	
- Energy for my Neighbour	-	-	
Unit I - General	4.200	4.095	
CICARWS	8.680.087	-	- 682.087
Unit II - Service Programme	782.231	-	+ 1.077.106
C C I A	1.335,369	-	- 1.069.369
P C R	907.750	-	- 315.250
C C P D	2.188.840	-	
C M C	1.506.426	-	- 250.225
Renewal & Congregational Life	531.204	291.138	
Youth	508.502	297.432	
Women	689.326	-	- 42.251
Education incl. Scholarships	2.062.030	94.092	- 142.517

(CONTINUED)

P T E	1.676.163	-	- 92.988
Unit III - General	11.000	10.725	
Communication	3.074.778	2.064.425	
Ecumenical Institute, Bossey	2.103.800	172.800	
Finance	194.364	-	
Business Office	-	-	
Upkeep	-	-	
Mail & Telephone	-	-	
Cyclostyle	-	-	
Economat	-	-	
Personnel Office	-	-	
SUB-TOTAL	32.261.208	5.861.112	- 1.757.961
General Reserve	100.000	100.000	
Assembly Reserve	100.000	100.000	
Contingencies	50.000	50.000	
SUB-TOTAL	32.511.208	6.111.112	- 1.757.961
./. Internal Transfers	484.095		
T O T A L	32.027.113	6.111.112	- 1.757.961
Undesignated income		5.800.000	
Shortfall		311.112*	

* to be covered in accordance with items 8 (a), (c) and (e) indicated in Report of Finance Sub-Committee (see page 35).